Bifurcation of Ministry of Telecommunications

591. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are determined to downsize the Government machinery; and

(b) if so, the reasons for sudden creation of two departments out of telecommunication department resulting in increase in strength of secretaries instead of reducing the posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure) has been issuing instructions from time to time to control creation of Plan and Non-Plan posts. In August, 1999, instructions were issued by that Ministry to all the Ministries/Departments to undertake a review of all the posts which were lying vacant in the Ministries/Departments and in their Attached and Subordinate Offices, etc. in consultation with the Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure). These instructions, *inter alia*, envisage that till the review is completed, no vacant posts will be filled up except with the approval of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure). Further, such Ministries/ Departments as had not fully implemented the Government's decision to achieve reduction in the number of posts (as on 1.1.1992) in compliance with the across-the-board 10% cut advised in January, 1992, have been asked to fully implement that decision immediately. According to the information available with the Ministry of Finance, approximately 1.83 lakh posts have been abolished in various Ministries/Departments as a result of this exercise.

(b) Prior to 17.7.2000, Ministry of Communications was having three Departments under it, namely, (1) Department of Telecommunications (2) Department of Posts, and (3) Department

of Telecom Services. Department of Telecom Operations was created *vide* Cabinet Secretariat Notification dated 17.7.2000.

The Rules for the Allocation of Business of the Government are made by the President under Clause (3) of Article 77 of the Constitution for convenient transaction of business of the Government. The business to be transacted in various Ministries and Departments is specified in the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961. Each Department is under the charge of a Minister and the business allocated to the Department under the Allocation of Business Rules, is disposed of under the general or special directions of, the Minister-in-charge of the Department. The number of Ministries/Departments at a given point of time is thus based on the administrative convenience of the Government.

Downsizing of the strength of bureaucrats in Central Government

592. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government, instead of reducing the posts are increasing the number of top level bureaucrats;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) what steps are being taken to minimise the level of senior officials in view of the liberalised policy which leaves very litle work for bureaucracy;

(d) whether it is not a fact that it will incur additional expenditure on the exchequer; and

(e) what steps are being taken to reduce these expenses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (e) The Rules for the Allocation of Business of the Government are made by the President under Clause (3) of Article 77 of the Constitution for convenient transaction of business of the Government. The business to be transacted in various Ministries and Departments is specified in